GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2835
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2016
Quality Research
Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any coordination mechanism has been set up to encourage quality research in various laboratories, universities and research institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to take the benefits of research to the commonman; and

(d) the progress made in the direction of utilising the technology developed after research for earning profit along with the technologies linked with market during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Science and Technology has different levels of coordination mechanisms to encourage and promote quality research in various laboratories, universities, and research institutes in the country. The Expert Committees, Programme Advisory Committees and Task Force of the Departments are designed to monitor the kind of research undertaken by the Principal Investigators from academic and research institutions and review the quality aspects to match with the global level. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has Advisory Board at the headquarters' level, Research Councils and Management Councils at the laboratory level to review R&D activities and research programmes so that the quality of research undertaken by the laboratories are ensured. In addition, Department of Science and Technology (DST) monitors the quality of university research through a programme called `Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE)' and incentivize the Universities for continued performance.

(c) The Government is implementing several schemes under National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) such as Technology Business Incubator (TBI) and Seed Support System (SSS) to translate the benefits of innovative R&D having potential for commercialization, which also addresses various societal needs. CSIR has been providing the S&T knowledgebase needed for the benefit of the common people. The efforts are focused at bringing in desired S&T interventions for improving the quality of life, removing drudgery and augmenting income of the people.

(d) Good progress has been made in the direction of utilizing the technology developed for earning profit. CSIR has been licensing technologies and products developed to industry. It is able to achieve a rate of 13.33% commercialization of its patents in comparison to a global average of 3%. During the last 4 years, the Department of Biotechnology have commercialized 30 products including vaccines (Rotavirus vaccine), medical devices and diagnostics that help detect chronic and infectious diseases, cancer etc. DST through TBI provides a platform to connect innovative research with market place, nurturing of startups etc. More than 100 TBIs have been supported by the DST, hosted at various academic and R&D institutions. The details of lab scale technology taken to market through National Research Development Corporation in the last three years and the current year are given below:

Year 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 (upto 30.06.2016)
No. of Technologies licensed for Commercialization 19 40 21 4
Premia Earned (Rs. Lakh) 55.7 157.2 66.60 23.50

****